



# County of San Diego

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Dear California Department of Mental Health:

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), Mental Health Services (SDMHS), submits its Plan for the Community Services and Supports (CSS) component of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA).

The CSS component represents \$25.4 million in community services and supports for our mental health system, including related administrative costs. These CSS services and supports are designed to enhance mental health services for children/youth with serious emotional disturbances, and their families, and for transition age youth, adults, and older adults with serious mental illness.

The CSS Plan, including the Executive Summary, was reviewed by stakeholders and the public during the month of October. The CSS Plan adheres to the intent of the MHSA, the DMH required guidelines and reflects the input and participation of over a thousand individuals. The complete planning process is described in Part I of the CSS Plan. Remarkably, attendance at formal venues, special population venues, focus groups and other meetings totaled 2,573 persons who were involved in the process. Over 2000 pages of written input were received from the community during the entire planning and review process.

The final Plan has corrections, minimal revisions to language, and some substantive program and services changes as described below.

1. The North County Walk-in Assessment Center was expanded with \$297,000 in funding to include capacity to serve adults and older adults.
2. Two children's programs, CY5.1 (Outpatient Services for Dependents and wards) and CY 8 (Mental Health Services to Children in Out-of-Home Placement) were both provided with enhanced funding in order to implement best practice programs. An additional \$200,000 was set aside for these two programs.

3. The TAY service array was adjusted in order to increase funding for the TAY residential dual diagnosis program. \$169,000 was shifted from TAY 1 intensive case management services to the dual diagnosis residential program, resulting in 14 fewer slots in TAY 1. The TAY 3 program will be one of three dual diagnosis enhanced programs.
4. Veterans are specifically identified as eligible for intensive case management services, and additional funding is provided in our training component, the System Educational Program, to conduct training on veteran's issues.

These substantive changes were reviewed by the Cross Threading Workgroup on November 15, 2005; the public was invited to attend and comment at this meeting as well.

While we know that DMH needs time to review and consider approval for the entire CSS Plan, we ask for accelerated review and authorization of the one time funds described in this CSS Plan.

San Diego County is proud of its community process and its Final CSS Plan. Please contact me for any questions at (619) 563-2700.

Sincerely,

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cc: Jean Shepard, Director, HHSA  
Paula Landau Cox, HHSA Director of Operations  
Rosa Ana Lozada Garcia, LCSW Assistant Deputy Director, Children's Mental Health Services